

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 00810 112103Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7196
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, SOPN, CA, UR
SUBJ: TORONTO SUN REPORTS SOVIET COUNTERCLAIMS TO
CANADIAN SPY EXPULSIONS OF 13 RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS

REF: OTTAWA 0668

1. IN ITS MAY 11 EDITION, TABLOID TORONTO SUN CARRIED A COLUMN BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF PETER WORTHINGTON "CANADIAN SPY CAPER?" RECOUNTING SOVIET COUNTERCLAIMS RESULTING FROM CANADIAN EXPULSION OF 13 SOVIET DIPLOMATS EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR ALLEGED ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY IN CANADA. THE WORTHINGTON COLUMN IS BASED ON AN ARTICLE BY ONE ARKADY SAKHNIN IN THE RUSSIAN NEWSPAPER LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. THE SOVIET ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET DIPLOMATS RESULTED FROM ACTIVITIES OF TORY M.P.S TOM COSSITT AND OTTO JELINEK, MEMBER OF "SPECIAL SECURITY DEPARTMENTS" WHOSE JOB IS "TO POISON CANADIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS." THE ARTICLE CONTINUED, ACCORDING TO WORTHINGTON, TO RECOUNT THE EXPERIENCES OF A MEMBER OF A SOVIET TRADE MISSION WHO CAME TO CANADA IN 1967 FOR THE MONTREAL EXPO WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF SUBVERSION ATTEMPTS BY THE RCMP.

2. THE WORTHINGTON ARTICLE GOES INTO SOME DETAIL
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REGARDING THIS SOVIET TRADE MISSION MEMBER WHO IS GIVEN THE FICTITIOUS NAME ALEXEI BOGDANOVICH MARTYNOV. THE SOVIET ARTICLE CONTAINED REFERENCE TO BANK ACCOUNTS IN CANADA AND SWITZERLAND ALLEGEDLY ESTABLISHED BY THE RCMP, TO SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS, PASSPORTS AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES PROVIDED SUPPOSEDLEY BY THE RCMP AND INTO ALLEGED TELEPHONE CONTACT NUMBERS IN OTTAWA. WORTHINGTON

REPORTS THAT THE OTTAWA CONTACT NUMBERS ARE NOT IN SERVICE. WORTHINGTON CONCLUDES "IT IS ALL VERY ODD, AND IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW THE CANADIAN VERSION OF THE SAME STORY. WHAT WAS GOING ON ANYWAY.....?"

3. COPIES OF THE COLUMN BEING SENT TO ADDRESSEES UNDER COVER OF AIRGRAM.

4. COMMENT - WORTHINGTON, IT WILL BE RECALLED, TOGETHER WITH SUN PUBLISHER DOUGLAS CREIGHTON, IS UNDER INDICTMENT FOR VIOLATION OF THE CANADIAN OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT BECAUSE OF PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGED SOVIET ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN CANADA.

DIGGINS

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